

those eight States would want to vote for their States' self-interest. Those States are Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, North Carolina, and, of course, my State of Louisiana.

Again, I particularly appeal through the Chair to the Senators from those eight States—Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Louisiana. Obviously, for the very interests of your State, please support getting a vote on the Vitter amendment. Please support the Vitter amendment. Your State's representation in the U.S. House hangs in the balance. Of course, that means please do not vote for cloture on the CJS bill until we can have such a vote. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, we are about 10 minutes away from a vote on the energy and water conference report. I wanted to put forward one very cogent reason for voting against this bill.

This bill hides from the American people information to which they are entitled. There was clearly accepted by unanimous consent an amendment that said the reports in that bill will be made available to all Senators and all the citizens of this country—and rightly so—unless it had a national security implication for not exposing that information.

The best government is the one that is the most open. The best government is the one in which people have trust. By bringing this bill to the floor out of conference and dropping the transparency amendment, the transparency section where one can actually see what is going on in Washington, where one can actually see where their money is being spent, where one can actually see the information that a select group of Senators see but other Senators do not, as well as the American people—if, in fact, one can see that, that breeds accountability in Washington.

If my colleagues, in fact, vote for this conference report, what they are saying is they want to keep the American people in the dark; they do not want them to see what we are doing; they do not want them to see how we are doing it; they do not want them to see why we are doing it. They want the elite position of making a judgment without being held accountable.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this conference report.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3183, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany H.R. 3183, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 p.m. today, all postcloture time be yielded back and the Senate then proceed to vote on adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Appropriations Act; further, that no points of order be in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I will vote to approve this conference agreement to provide over \$33 billion for a variety of energy and water infrastructure projects and programs. Michigan is surrounded by the Great Lakes, and the funding provided in this conference report to the Army Corps to maintain the navigational infrastructure and to clean up and protect the Great Lakes is especially important. Michigan also will benefit from the investments in clean energy technologies and energy efficiency programs provided in this bill that will help create a more sustainable economy while producing quality jobs.

The conference report includes important funding for a wide range of energy research and technology development at the Department of Energy, including advanced vehicle technologies, hydrogen and fuel cell technologies, wind and solar energy technologies, and biomass and biorefinery systems. This conference report also includes funding for critical areas of science including high energy and nuclear physics, biological and environmental research, and advanced scientific computing research. Research and technology development in these groundbreaking areas of energy and science will continue our nation's advancement toward greater use of technologies that will reduce our dependence on oil, reduce our carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions, and increase our reliance on our home-grown renewable resources. Federal Govern-

ment support of research and development in these technology areas will also help ensure that our companies remain competitive in the global marketplace and ensure that the U.S. remains on the competitive edge of technology development and scientific discovery.

I am particularly pleased that the conference report includes \$12 million in funding for research and development, conceptual design and engineering for the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, FRIB, to be built at Michigan State University. Inclusion of this funding in the conference report is critical to moving forward with this facility. Under the Department's current plans, engineering work would continue in fiscal year 2011, with initial design work beginning in fiscal year 2011 and continuing into fiscal year 2012. Construction of the facility would begin in fiscal year 2013. MSU has solid and well-known expertise in the field of rare isotopes and nuclear physics, with the largest nuclear physics faculty in the nation and a nuclear physics graduate program ranked number two in the U.S., second only to MIT. MSU is currently the home of the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory, NSCL, which is the most advanced rare isotope accelerator in the U.S. and is the largest nuclear science facility on a university campus. FRIB is the next generation rare isotope facility and the Department of Energy's decision in December 2008 to select MSU for FRIB is an indication of the university's preeminence in this field.

I am also pleased that the conference report includes funding for several important energy projects in Michigan that will advance the development of technologies including advanced batteries and energy storage systems, plug-in hybrid vehicles, solar and photovoltaic systems, wind energy, biomass, and energy efficiency. Michigan companies and universities are well-positioned to contribute to the development of these advanced technologies, offering both significant expertise in these technology areas and a highly trained workforce to carry out the manufacture and production of these technologies.

About 180 million tons of goods are transported to and from Great Lakes harbors and ports each year, providing fuel to heat and cool homes and businesses, limestone and cement to build roads and buildings, iron ore to produce steel, and grain to feed our Nation and for export overseas. Throughout the Great Lakes, there are significant dredging and other operation and maintenance needs so that freighters can safely deliver these vital commodities. There is a significant backlog in the work required to maintain the Great Lakes navigational system. The Army Corps estimates there is a backlog of 17 million cubic yards of material that needs to be dredged in the Great Lakes, which is estimated to cost to about \$200 million, to restore